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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE effort of Senator Morrill to bring up the Tariff Bill on Tuesday last, and in so doing to ignore the position taken by the Silver Senators that Bimetallism is inseparable from Protection, met with deserved defeat. Mr. Teller and the Silver Senators who voted with him against taking up the Tariff Bill, take the stand that the appreciating gold standard destroys the very advantages that a protective tariff under a sound financial system would confer, and that, therefore, it is folly for them as true protectionists to vote for a measure of intended protection unless joined to bimetallism, knowing that any attempt to restore prosperity to our producing classes by levying higher tariff duties would fail of its purpose because of the continuous fall in prices that is inseparable from gold monometalism. Further, this continuous fall of

prices would defeat the purpose of the Dingley Tariff even as a revenue measure, for the Dingley Tariff is largely based on ad valorem duties, and as prices fell, customs duties, collected on a basis of a percentage of the valuation of goods imported, would fall likewise.

The position taken by Senators Morrill and Sherman and Aldrich and Platt is petty. They assume that all those who join bimetallism to protection are prompted by sordid motives. They treat those in the Senate who take this position as representatives of special interests. Nothing is farther from the truth. The Senators who stand courageously for bimetallism and protection, represent the interests of the producing classes of the whole country. They advocate a joint policy that will conserve the interests of the producing classes of Eastern and Middle States no less than of the West. They represent thousands of voters in the Middle and Eastern States, who are misrepresented by the Gold Republicans in the Senate. In the stand they have taken they are supported by a growing sentiment in all sections. The position they have taken is endorsed by leaders of the wage-earning classes, by many manufacturers and merchants through the Middle and Eastern States, as well as in the States of the central West. This is not a mere declaration. It is not a hope, it is not based on mere expectation. It is a fact.

Mr. Teller was quite right when he declared that it did not lie in the power of the Senator from Vermont, or any other Senator to read him out of the Party. It is Mr. Morrill, not Mr. Teller, who opposes obstinately true Republican doctrines and makes the passage of true Republican legislation impossible. When the time comes for reading out of the Party, it is Mr. Morrill who has fallen behind the times and has not kept up with the advance of thought and knowledge on financial questions who should be read out of the Party. When the time comes it may be Mr. Morrill who will bolt the nominee of the Republican Party, not Mr. Teller. If the Republican convention is true to Republican principles, declares unequivocally for Bimetallism and Protection and nominates a candidate for President representing such principles, Mr. Teller will not bolt. Perhaps Mr. Morrill would, but his loss would not be felt.

It is not often that we have two great anniversaries occurring in the same week, but last week the seventh semi-centenary of Luther's death came within three days of the annual commemoration of Washington's birth. It is curious to think how little either man would have understood the other, or appreciated his strong points. To Luther, Washington would have seemed a worldling, not without his use, the management of temporal policies; but as good as blind to what supplies the greatest motives of existence. To Washington, Luther would have seemed an intemperate dreamer, where meddling with practical affairs could do only mischief. To us, just because we have cultivated the historic sense better, the great qualities of both are apparent; but with this gift to understand, we have lost something of the capacity they both had to entertain great enthusiasm, and if need be to die for them. We see farther, but we feel

less. There is a sense in which ignorance, or at least the limitation of knowledge is the mother of devotion to even the great ideals of life. The edge that cuts is "sadly lacking in breadth."

Washington's birthday was less publicly celebrated than is usual; partly because it fell on a Saturday, when the educational institutions were enjoying their weekly holiday too much to give up its hours to patriotic memories. Enough, however, was said and written to show that the always unique, if somewhat idealized portrait of our first of men has not faded in the least from the popular vision. The man on whom a nation rested in the hour of its sorest depression, and whose personal qualities made the success of the war for independence possible, but who rejected every reward at their hands except the opportunity to render his country still farther service, is indeed a great figure in the world's history. It is well for us that this statuesque greatness stands at the very portal of our national history, and furnishes the popular conscience with the ideal of the public servant, just as Sir Matthew Hale has supplied the English-speaking race with the ideal of the just judge.

MR. REED's fainéant Congress moves through the unexciting stages of voting the appropriations with fairly laudable promptness. The early House of Commons would vote no supplies until they had corrected grievances, or at least had made themselves heard on the subject. This House however, would have delegated Charles I or his pedantic father. It seems to know of no grievances to speak of. Even the Tariff it touches only to increase revenue, without attempting anything substantial to protect our labor from competition. For the condition of the South, for the grave blunders of our diplomacy, for the utter unfitness of our banking system to the needs of our people, for the oppression of all debtors, and the Nation among the first, by the steady lengthening of the monetary yard-stick, it has neither eyes nor ears. It has got into the "let well enough alone" mood which far better befits the Democrats. It is indeed the mark of a Democrat all through our history that he is well satisfied with the existing order of things, and thinks the country needs peace more than change. The opposite parties—Federalist, Whig and Republican—always have been working toward some unreached goal, and trying to concentrate popular feeling on some needed improvement in our methods of doing things. The people gave the House an overwhelming Republican majority because they understood that party to be still the party of movement. Under Mr. Reed's leadership it moves about as rapidly as the procession of the equinoxes. It has ceased to be Republican and has become the Democratic party under another name.

Even in the matter of appropriations the policy of minimizing is followed. The Republicans are to show the country that they can get on with less spending than did the Democratic Congress which preceded this. If this meant that the Republicans had really become economical, it would be interesting. But it is again nothing more than an election move to influence voters, and to increase Mr. Reed's chances by showing how much he can do to smooth the way of his party to power.

MR. SECRETARY MORTON of the Agricultural Department was the first member of the administration to avow his adherence to unqualified Gold Monometallism, and this with a frankness which startled even the enemies of Silver and of Bimetallism. He threw aside the pretence that Silver resumption was impossible because Europe would not act with us, and declared that even if it did the double standard would be impracticable. Neither Mr. Cleveland nor Mr. Carlisle has ever been so candid in the expression of their views, although it is now impossible to suppose that they differ by a jot from those of Mr. Morton. Naturally the Secretary for Agriculture has not enlarged his popularity with our farming population and their representatives by these avowals of

his hostility to any plan to relieve them from the growth of their debts. They were therefore the less ready to accept his resolve to stop the distribution of seeds and plants by his department to persons designated by Congressmen as fit to profit by this. There is no doubt that grave abuses have gathered around the practice, just as around the distribution of public documents. Nor is it on record that very signal benefits to our agriculture have accrued from the distribution. The best benefits have been the result of personal enterprise, such as the renewal of our stock of potatoes from South America by Rev. Mr. Goodrich. The sorghum cane was once cited as proof that the Bureau of Agriculture had not existed in vain; but to-day the sorghum holds a very insignificant place in our rural economy.

On the other hand Congress, in voting money to cover the expense of distribution, hardly left it to the Secretary's discretion as to whether he should continue or stop it. At any rate the present Congress has voted to make the distribution mandatory. The farmers and planters no more mean to let Mr. Morton dispose of this question, than of the money question. He, no doubt, regards Bimetallism and the distribution of seeds as parallel and sad illustrations of governmental paternalism. And there certainly is something illogical in maintaining a Department of Agriculture for the benefit of farmers, and spending public money in helping them to improve their vegetable stock, while maintaining that manufacturers should be left to shift for themselves.

THE House has voted to eliminate from the Indian appropriation bill, the grant of money to Indian schools controlled by any religious denomination. This puts an end to the experiment begun by Gen. Grant for securing "the Christianization and civilization of the Indians" by enlisting the co-operation of the American churches with the government. Mr. Grant was no more favorable to a union of Church and State than are any of those who have joined hands for years past to break down his plan. Nor was he so destitute of logic as to commit himself to a proposal, the consequences of which he would have repudiated. He did not propose to pay these schools money in aid for their religious work among the Indians, but for their educational work, and never enough to compensate them for the former. And he further proposed to regulate the grant through the supervision of government inspectors, who should see that the schools did all they were paid for, and more. He believed that in this way more money would be secured, and more and better workers employed, than under a system of either government schools alone, or of missionary schools alone. And knowing that Congress pays chaplains for the religious instruction of the army and navy, he felt that his proposal was within the line drawn by this historic precedent, which goes back to the beginning of the government.

The truth is that we should have heard of no objection to the plan, if it had not been that the Roman Catholics embraced the offer made to all churches, with a zeal and a success which outdid them all. More exactly, one zealous priest and a number of laymen undertook the work in the face of many discouragements, and with very scanty support from the hierarchy of their Church. They managed to enlist several of the religious orders, and thus to obtain zealous teachers on very cheap terms. It has been uphill work with them, even with this advantage; and it will be still more so with the grants to their schools withdrawn. We do not see how a fair-minded Protestant can call the transaction other than shabby.

THE Philadelphia election raises the question whether there is any such thing as a Democratic party in this locality, and what are its uses. The chief Republican candidate got 83,997 clear majority, being very much more than the vote cast for his Democratic rival. With two morning papers and an unlimited supply of clubs, leaders, workers, and the like, the Democracy should not

fall so far behind in a city they long controlled—the only first-class city on the continent where their sole chance of success is a division among the Republicans.

In the quality of the men chosen on the Republican ticket to sit in the City Councils, the election is not encouraging to hopes of reform. The striking fact is that the worst selections are made in the wealthiest and most respectable wards, such as the Eighth. There are enough new men to leave room for hope: but there is a disgraceful tale of untrustworthy men who have had their lease of power renewed.

THE death of Judge Henry Reed removes from the bench a man who had endeared himself to a wide circle of personal friends. For a time he hesitated between the field of literature, in which his illustrious father attained distinction, and that of law, but finally decided for the latter. The fifth in descent from the Scotch Irish immigrant who founded his family, and the fourth from Joseph Reed, the first professionally trained lawyer in America, he had a lively interest in history as well as law, and in the social peculiarities of the elements in our national make up. It is not possible to describe him as a great judge, but it will be long before the bench loses another who has so endeared himself to his profession and to a wide public.

THE Cubans seem to hold their own fairly well against Gen. Weyler and his policy of terror and vigor. He is making Havana very hot for all whom he suspects of sympathy with the insurrection, and has provoked threats of dynamite by his numerous and secret executions. In the open field, however, he has accomplished nothing worth the telling; and it is in the open field, not in Havana, that the insurrection must be quelled. He has not been able to make the island a source of revenue by securing the sugar crop. On one plantation, hemmed in with soldiers and cannon, the cane has been cut and crushed. Everywhere else the insurgents destroy it with their heavy tools—half knife, half sword—which they can turn to account equally in a close fight.

Naturally their resistance has encouraged their friends in America, and the debate on the resolutions recognizing them as belligerents, lacks only opposition to give it spirit. Everyone seems to feel that the time has come when justice demands this step, which would give us the surer ground for intervention if Gen. Weyler's severities go too far. Mr. Cleveland, however, may be of another mind, as, indeed, he has shown himself more considerate for Spain than for Cuba from the first. His attitude is freshly emphasized by the seizure of an English vessel in New York Harbor carrying ammunition to the insurgents, ostensibly to a South American port, although the U. S. Court in Wilmington ruled that this is no violation of our neutrality laws.

THE Irish Home Rulers and the English Dissenters, who form a large, if not a controlling element among the English Liberals, are a good deal at odds on the education question. The Irishmen are mainly Catholics, with the Catholics' usual preference of church schools to any other. The Liberals say they have no objection to their voting to support that policy in Ireland, where it has the support of the majority of the people, even the Orangemen uniting with the Catholics in desiring a closer association of school and church. But they argue that the Irish owe something to their friends in England, who have stood by Home Rule, and who are strongly opposed to that policy. On Home Rule ground, they argue, the eighty Home Rule votes should not be used to fasten on England a policy which would starve out the board school preferred by the Liberals, and build up the parish schools controlled and patronized chiefly by the Tories.

It is not easy to see, however, why the Irish should change their principles when they come to apply it to England, because

their English friends do not like it. Neither is its application to England a matter in which they have no direct concern. The English cities, especially Liverpool and London, have a large Irish-Catholic population, where education depends upon the character of English schools. As these Irish in England are generally very poor, they are not able to maintain parish schools without a government grant, so the Irish, in co-operating with the Tories, are taking a course in harmony with their own principles.

The Dissenters retort that if this be Home Rule, to have English policy controlled by Irish votes, it is not what they supposed it, and they may be obliged to break with its advocates. The Irish reply that they have no objection to being turned out of Parliament, if they be given control of Irish affairs; but that so long as English votes settle Irish questions, Irish votes must help to settle English questions.

Of all the members of the present government, Mr. Balfour is the most likely to take up sympathetically the proposal for a permanent Court of Arbitration, to settle all questions between England and America. He is the most open to ideas, and the readiest to approach such a proposal in a philosophic spirit, divested of the prejudices of established tradition, yet even he rejects the plan as impracticable, and for the best of reasons. As he says, arbitration may be employed for the settlement of secondary disputes, about which nobody cares very much, but not of those which go down to the roots of a nation's being, and involve its honor. He might have added that there are so many ways of disposing of secondary disputes without a recourse to arms, that it is not worth while to create an international tribunal for the purpose, and that such a tribunal is not the shortest way to a just decision, as American experience has shown. We are just about to fall back upon one of these lesser remedies in the case of the seal fisheries, because an arbitration board rendered a decision which would have done discredit to a seventeenth century jury.

It is evident that the gentlemen, lay and reverend, of our Anglicized fringe are wasting their time in pressing this proposal. They may allow the congregations which meet on Sundays for the worship of God, to take up topics more congenial to the day, and let arbitration retire to the limbo of *doctrinaire* fads.

THE lifting of the curtain from Corea, which was one result of the war between Japan and China, has revealed the very elementary condition of its society. The country is wretchedly poor, in spite of possessing fine natural resources. It is also rent in two by two great classes whose quarrels have been aggravated by marrying a king, who belongs to one, to a princess of the other. Then set in a new struggle between the king's own clan and that of his much more capable spouse, as to which should exert the controlling influence over his acts. This has not ended even with her murder in a palace, but still proceeds. Japan, which has acquired a sort of protectorate over the country, evidently has not obtained from China the secret of keeping things quiet, and Russia threatens to interfere to maintain order and also to extend the sphere of her influence and possibly of her railroads. It would have been better for Japan to have endured the rather sentimental grievance of Chinese suzerainty over Corea than to invite the closer neighborhood of this aggressive power. The chief block to Russia's advance is the pledge mutually given by her and England to respect the neutrality of the country.

Newspaper gossip makes the extraordinary statement that the entire site of Babylon has been purchased by two Jews. If this is true, the purchase has been made for purposes of excavation; but we do not wholly credit it. But think of the children of the captives by the rivers of Babylon buying the whole of the ancient capital of the world.

THE STRUGGLE FOR GOLD.

COMPARISON of the growth of the gold reserves held by the European banks during the past five years with the coincident decline in the gold reserve held by the United States Treasury gives much food for thought. On the 30th of June 1890, the gold reserve in the United States Treasury stood at \$190,232,404. And on January 31st, last, it stood at but \$49,845,507. But this does not show the extent of the drain on the gold reserve during the past five years, for over \$180,000,000, of gold was added in the interim,—proceeds of \$162,315,400 bonds. As the result of payments under the fourth bond issue the reserve to-day stands at some \$125,000,000, but it is painfully apparent that after payments under this last bond issue are completed, after the issue of \$262,315,400 bonds since February 1894 for gold and the payment into the Treasury on this account of over \$290,000,000 of gold, the reserve will be at least \$50,000,000 or \$60,000,000 less than five years ago.

Of the \$346,681,016 of greenbacks and \$301,539,751 of silver certificates issued up to June 30th, 1890, \$297,556,238 of silver certificates and \$322,798,977 of greenbacks were in circulation at that date, a total of \$620,355,215. But the silver certificates at that time were in no way a demand on the gold reserve. They had been issued under the Bland Act, they were specifically redeemable in silver and there was no parity clause of the Sherman Act which could be so interpreted as to make them a burden on the gold reserve. The silver certificates were supported by the silver against which they were issued and rested on their own basis. The gold reserve of \$190,232,404, was available for the redemption of the \$346,681,016 of greenbacks and the proportion of our gold reserve to the circulation based upon it was nearly 55 per cent. Moreover there was practically no demand for redemption and there was no drain on the gold reserve.

The Sherman Act was passed July 14th, 1890. It went into effect August 13th. If the provisions of that Act had been executed, if the Secretary of the Treasury had carried out the intent of the law, coined the silver purchased, and broadened the basis as the superstructure was broadened by the issue of Treasury notes, and redeemed the Treasury notes when presented in silver, no drain on the gold reserve would have followed. But the parity clause of the Sherman Act was so interpreted as to make Treasury notes issued under the Sherman Act redeemable in gold at the option of the holder. Consequently the demand for gold was made greatest when gold was scarce and dearest.

Further, the same clause has been so stretched as also to practically impose on the gold reserve the task of supporting the silver certificates. The result has been that the drain on our gold has been continuous, and instead of \$346,681,016 of greenbacks resting on \$190,232,404 of gold as on June 30th, 1890, we find February 1st, 1896, \$345,994,504, silver certificates, \$137,324,280 Treasury notes of 1890 and \$346,681,016 greenbacks, a total of \$829,999,800, resting on a gold reserve of \$49,845,507. Of the \$829,999,800 of paper based on this gold \$142,418,436 was in the Treasury leaving \$687,581,364 in circulation. Compared to the sum actually in circulation the gold reserve equaled hardly seven per cent. of the paper outstanding and resting on the gold reserve instead of 55 per cent. in 1890. Such has been the result of our attempt to support a stock of paper, previously supported on a basis of both gold and silver, on the gold basis alone.

Our prospects under the gold standard are certainly not bright. Continued borrowing to replenish as continuously a depleted gold reserve, or contraction of our currency and lower prices: These are the alternatives offered by the gold standard.

In the struggle for gold with the creditor nations of Europe to which we are largely indebted we are at a serious disadvantage. While we have lost gold during the past five years, they have gathered it, and the accumulations of gold in the European banks of issue are greater than ever before known.

Taking the figures compiled by *L'Economiste Européen* we find that on December 31st, 1890, the gold reserves held by the various European banks of issue amounted to \$936,918,500, an amount equal to about 36 per cent. of their circulation. Besides the gold they held silver to an amount of nearly \$420,000,000, which it is hardly necessary to add they treat as money and not as mere bullion unavailable for redemption purposes, a colossal blunder into which our national Treasury has alone fallen, and consequently is just as serviceable a part of their reserve as gold. This silver together with the gold held, made the total reserve of the European banks of issue on December 31st, 1890, equal to 51 per cent. of their circulation. Since 1890 gold has steadily accumulated in the European banks. While our Treasury gold reserve has steadily dwindled the gold in the European banks of issue has rapidly accumulated. In place of the \$936,918,500 of gold in the European banks on December 31st, 1890, we find \$1,50,167,100 on January 30th, last, a gold reserve equal to 50 per cent. of their total circulation, while together with the silver they held to an amount of \$479,257,600 the total reserve against circulation was equal to 65 per cent. of their issues.

Five years ago the European banks of issue held less than one-fourth of the gold of the world, now they hold three-eighths of all the gold in use as money. As the gold thus becomes centered more and more in the European banks we are placed in greater and greater dependence on foreign money lenders. We can break the fetters which are now being bound around us, which are bringing us into abject financial dependence on European money lenders and virtually enslaving our producing classes and bankrupting our people in their national as well as individual capacity only by restoring silver to its place as money and making gold less valuable. So long as gold continues to appreciate it will be withdrawn from the channels of trade and industry and centered in the European banks. When this appreciation is checked, when rising prices take the place of falling prices and as a result productive enterprises yield remunerative profits, then gold will be withdrawn from the financial centers, invested in the products of labor and productive enterprises and stimulate industry; not before. It is folly to expect to prosper under a system of appreciating money and falling prices dictated by our creditors.

THE DEMONETIZATION OF SILVER AND THE BLAND ACT.

AS soon as it became generally known that the act approved February 12th, 1873—an act originating in a bill transmitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury on April 25th, 1870 providing for a revision of the coinage laws of the United States, finally passed by both Houses of Congress with little opposition and without a division, it being generally understood, indeed it was so stated by those having the bill in charge in both House and Senate, that the bill merely provided for a general and much needed revision of the coinage laws of the United States, and approved by President Grant without hesitation as such,—had, by omitting the silver dollar from the list of silver coins, closed the mints to the free coinage of silver, and would, with the resumption of specie payments, place us practically, if not absolutely, on the single gold basis, the demand that silver be remonetized became general among the masses of the people. With the discovery that the act of 1873 was one of contraction, inevitably leading to lower prices and smaller profits for all producers, a struggle was precipitated between the contractionists, [who, by securing the passage of the act of February 12, 1873,—ostensibly an act to revise the coinage laws—had covertly forced the demonetization of silver, who were little inclined to yield the prospect of future profit through the increasing value of money sure to result from discarding silver and throwing upon gold alone the demand for money; who were prepared to resist any move towards the restora-

tion of silver, and who have, at every opportunity, sought to bring about the retirement of the greenbacks issued during the war,] and the masses of the people, whose welfare was bound up with then, as now, and ever must be dependent on the existence of a stable measure of value, and stable or rising prices. For twenty years this struggle has been fought with varying success and is still undecided.

Shortly after the money lending classes had succeeded in demonetizing silver in 1873, they renewed, with some success, their attacks on the greenbacks. They first succeeded in limiting the issue of greenbacks, June 20th, 1874, to \$382,000,000, about the amount then outstanding and the act of January 14th, 1875, authorizing an increase of the issues of bank notes further required the Secretary of the Treasury to retire legal tender notes (greenbacks) to an amount equal to 80 per cent. of the bank notes issued, until the amount of greenbacks outstanding should be reduced to \$300,000,000.

But before the greenbacks had been retired to this amount, contraction was summarily checked. The people were not content to suffer the retirement of greenbacks and the substitution of bank notes. In 1875 and 1876, as it became known that silver had been demonetized in 1873, the demand for re-monetization arose. Many bills providing for the free coinage of silver were introduced into the House of Representatives in the summer of 1876, but no determinative action was taken. During the winter of 1877-78 the demand for the restoration of silver culminated and found expression in Congress and before the growing demand for remonetization the contractionists had to yield in part, in order to successfully resist the effort to open the mints to the free coinage of silver. The gold contractionists were forced to accept a compromise. The veto of President Hayes alone enabled them to defeat free coinage, and the Bland Act was enacted into law over his veto and in spite of the strenuous opposition of Mr. Sherman, then Secretary of the Treasury. At the same time retirement of the greenbacks was summarily checked leaving \$346,681,016 outstanding.

The Bland Act provided for the purchase and coinage of not less than \$2,000,000 or more than \$4,000,000 worth of silver monthly. The unfriendly administration limited purchases to the minimum and the same was the policy pursued by succeeding Administrations until the Bland Act was finally superseded by the Sherman Act of 1890. While it was in force 291,018,019 ounces of silver were purchased and silver of the coinage value of \$376,265,722 added to our stock of money.

The coinage of silver under the Bland Act provided a gradual increase to our currency that was much needed, but which, as population increased, proved insufficient. The demands for money, owing to the increase of population and production and the greater quantity of produce to be exchanged, increasing faster than the supply, money appreciated and prices fell. The fault of the Bland Act was that it did not go far enough. Pending its passage there were dire predictions of disaster. It was confidently predicted that its passage would be the signal for the exportation of all our gold, but from the passage of the Bland Act down to its repeal there was no occasion for anxiety on the part of the Treasury officials on this score. The gold reserve rose, from \$119,956,655 on the 30th of June, 1879 to \$190,232,404 on June 30th, 1890, shortly before its repeal.

The Bland Act, besides providing for the purchase and coinage of silver, required the Treasurer or any assistant treasurer of the United States, to receive from any holder standard silver dollars and issue therefor silver certificates of not less than \$10 each, redeemable in silver dollars, the silver dollars taken on deposit being held in trust for such redemption. The issue, against deposits of silver dollars, of silver certificates of smaller denominations was authorized by acts of August 4th, 1886 and March 3rd, 1887. In this way the greater part of the silver coined under the Bland Act found its way permanently into cir-

culation in the shape of silver certificates. Of such certificates nearly \$346,000,000 have been issued and over \$330,000,000 are now in circulation.

These notes were in no way a burden to the gold reserve. They were made specifically redeemable in silver and based solely on the silver against which they were issued. The Bland Act added over \$330,000,000 of paper to our currency, but it added at the same time an equal amount of silver. The quantity of our paper money was increased, the superstructure resting on our stock of gold and silver was broadened, but the specie basis was at the same time, and equally, broadened. Consequently the Bland Act did not make our system top-heavy. It did not lead to the export of gold. There was work for the silver added to our currency to do, the demand for money was greater than the supply, and silver, the cheaper metal, circulated alongside of gold the dearer. The Gresham law, that cheap money drives out dear money, was inoperative for there was no cheap money. Silver bullion was relatively cheaper than gold bullion, but silver money was no cheaper than gold money. There was just as much demand for silver money as for gold and consequently the silver did not expel gold. In fact there was no cheap money. The silver money restricted in supply and the gold money were equally dear.

The coinage of silver under the Bland Act was not sufficient to give us a stable currency. As population and demand for money grew faster than the supply limited to the coinage of gold and the restricted purchases of silver, money appreciated and prices fell. Consequently to the producing classes the Bland Act was not satisfactory. It did not give them the needed relief or ensure them a just reward for their industries. Profits of industry disappeared in falling prices. Year after year the demand increased for unlimited coinage among the producing classes and the farming classes especially, who felt most severely the fall of prices.

On the other hand the contractionists demanded the repeal of the Bland Act and the contraction of our currency to a gold basis, but, although the demands of the gold contractionists were seconded by Presidents and Secretaries of the Treasury, year after year Congress refused to acquiesce in their demands. Yet while thus refusing to authorize contraction, Congress failed to provide for the needed expansion by opening the mints to silver. Thus from 1878 down to 1890 the Bland Act remained in force. The contractionists while foiled in their efforts to bring about a repeal of this act, were able on the other hand to prevent enactment of financial legislation more favorable to the producing classes.

THE SHERMAN ACT, GOLD MONOMETALLISM AND FINANCIAL CHAOS.

With the meeting of the 51st Congress the conflict between the gold contractionists and bi-metallists became more acute. The demand for relief from the producing classes could no longer be ignored. The gold contractionists were unable to defeat all financial legislation, but they defeated the purpose of their opponents by compromise. The Bland Act was superseded by the Sherman Act, approved July 14, 1890, under which purchases of silver were increased to 4,500,000 ounces monthly. But the coinage of this silver was not made obligatory. The silver was paid for by the issue of Treasury notes redeemable at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury in gold or silver. Under this act silver was purchased between August 13, 1890, the date when the law went into effect, and November 1st, 1893, when the purchasing clause was repealed, to an amount of 168,764,682 ounces at a cost of \$155,931,002.25 and paid for by the issue of treasury notes.

If the Secretary of the Treasury had redeemed the notes issued for the purchase of this silver in silver dollars coined out

of the silver purchased as authorized by the act, there would have been no drain on the gold reserve. If he had coined the silver so purchased and used such silver for redemption, the metallic basis of our currency would have been increased equally with the issue of paper. The reserve would have been increased equally with the demand liabilities, and there would have been no danger to the gold reserve from the issue of these treasury notes. Such was the purpose of those who favored the passage of the bill when the passage of a free coinage bill was found impossible. But such was not the course pursued by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Harrison and Mr. Foster yielded to the pressure brought by the New York money lending interests. They played into the hands of the gold contractionists.

The Sherman Act declared it to be the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity. The contractionists seized upon this clause. They vehemently declared, their organs iterated and reiterated, that this clause made it obligatory on the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem in gold; that only by so doing could the parity be maintained. Such a course, instead of maintaining a parity, can, of course, only lead to the permanent disparity of the two metals. The parity can only be maintained by the option as to payment in either gold or silver being vested in and exercised by the debtor, in this case the Treasury and the payment of demands for redemption in that metal which is most convenient.

But as unwarranted as the interpretation placed on the parity clause of the Sherman Act by the gold monometallists was, Mr. Foster accepted the false interpretation given by the contractionists. By so doing he set aside the intent of the Sherman Act, he discarded silver as a basis for the treasury notes, he increased the burdens for redemption on the gold reserve and placed the currency of the country on the gold basis. The result of this interpretation was that the Sherman Act led to an increase of the volume of paper without increasing the reserve. The treasury notes were made to rest on the gold reserve alone. The superstructure was broadened, the basis was not increased, for the silver purchased under the Sherman Act was made a dead asset. It was unavailable. The result was, our system became top-heavy and our gold reserve drained.

This interpretation of the parity clause of the Sherman Act was fatal to parity; fatal to the stability of our monetary system. It not only destroyed the basis of silver upon which the treasury notes of 1890 were intended to rest, but it destroyed the basis upon which the silver certificates safely rested under the Bland Act. The misconstrued parity clause of the Sherman Act has been stretched to cover the silver certificates as well as the treasury notes of 1890. By law the silver certificates are redeemable, and only redeemable in silver, but practically since this interpretation they rest on gold. Mr. Preston, the director of the mint is authority for this statement. In his annual report for 1895, page 184, after speaking of the \$346,681,016 of greenbacks and the \$141,092,280 of treasury notes outstanding November 1st, 1895, a total of \$487,773,296, which he assumes to be redeemable in gold and of the insufficiency of a gold reserve of \$100,000,000 to insure their convertibility at all times, he proceeds: "But this heavy task is not the only one imposed on our gold reserve of \$100,000,000. As under the laws of February 12th, 1878, July 14th, 1890, and March 3rd, 1891, \$423,289,309 in full legal tender silver have been coined, against which \$333,456,236 in certificates were outstanding November 1st, 1895, and as the act of July 14th, 1890, has declared it to be the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other, upon the present legal ratio or upon such ratio as may be provided by law, we have a total superstructure of \$821,229,532 resting on the frail basis of a gold reserve of \$100,000,000."

A gold reserve of \$100,000,000 is indeed frail to support a superstructure of eight times as much. The European banks of issue taken as a whole, hold \$1 in gold to \$2 of paper in circulation.

Gold in our Treasury will not support four times as much paper as gold in the European banks. The arbitrary interpretation of the parity clause of the Sherman Act has destroyed the \$500,000,000 of silver behind the Treasury notes of 1890 and the silver certificates as redemption money, and instead of our superstructure of \$800,000,000 of paper resting on \$600,000,000 of gold and silver as it should, it has been made to rest on gold alone. The basis being thus restricted the effect has been the same as if the superstructure had been unduly expanded, and the result is, gold has been exported, the drain on our gold reserve has been continuous, and on four separate occasions since the repeal of the Sherman Act it has been found necessary to resort to borrowing to avoid suspension of gold payments.

Between June 30th, 1890, and December 31st, 1895, our net exports of gold amounted to \$254,465,609, and gold exports must continue (except when checked artificially by borrowing) so long as we adhere to the gold standard and the Executive persists in interpreting the parity clause of the Sherman Act so as to give the holder of all paper issued by the United States the option of receiving payment in gold or silver, unless our currency is contracted, our greenbacks and Treasury notes retired, and thus the paper based on our gold reserve contracted until the proportion of our outstanding paper to our reserve is proportionately no greater than that issued by the banks of gold standard countries, occasioning such a fall in prices that our foreign creditors will take commodities in preference to gold.

The question for our producers to decide is simply between Bimetallism and higher prices, and gold monometallism and lower prices.

WOMAN'S WAYS.

WHAT dreams are born, what sweet eyes softly shine,
What golden lyres make happy melody,
What thrilling lips break forth in song divine,
Beyond the gleaming gateways of the sea?

If I but step into the silvery wave,
And launch my soul upon the ebbing tide,
What hand shall be outstretched from thence to save,
And draw me swift unto the other side?

O love, this is the way thy feet have passed,
And still the foam crests glow with rosy light!
O love, herein death found thy lips at last,
And where ye twain embraced the sea is bright!

And I will follow thee! 'Tis not so far
But I shall soon behold thy radiant eyes
Lighting the world where blest immortals are
As dawn illumines the dark and sunless skies.

Two of the directors of the First National Bank of Huntingdon, Indiana, are women, and one of them, Mrs. Sarah F. Dick, is the bank's cashier.

Dr. Mabel Spencer, of Kansas City, Kan., has been appointed County Physician of Riley county, Kan. She is the first woman in the State to receive such an appointment.

Lady Llanover, an enthusiastic Welsh woman, whose bardic name was Gwenwen Gwent, the Bee of Monmouthshire, died recently at ninety-four. She spent a great deal of money in fostering Welsh literature and wore the Welsh beaver hat. Her husband, before he was raised to the peerage, was Mr. Benjamin Hall, and gave his name to Big Ben, the great bell of the House of Parliament, which was set up when he was Commissioner of Public Works.

Dentistry is opening a new and wide field for women. This peculiarly nervous and delicate work seems to be especially adapted to them, and most of the women who have undertaken to practice in this profession have made a success of it. Chicago, alone, has fifteen women dentists, who are making a substantial living by it.

The woman who resolved to start an expense account at the beginning of the year resolved wisely, and she who religiously keeps one is laying up for herself the foundations of future wealth.

Nothing discourages the foolish, petty extravagances in which most women indulge so effectively as to be confronted by a record of those extravagances every night. If the expense book is a small affair which may be slipped into the coat pocket, so that entries may be made in it at any time, its usefulness is increased. It fills a place which the check book with its stubs cannot fill, for the stubs represent one's more dignified and necessary expenditures, and not the small follies perpetrated with the money which has not been put into the bank.

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Miss Gertrude Hall, whose clever stories and verses have awakened a deep interest in all lovers of true literature, is a native of Boston, and a daughter of Madam Edna Hall, the well-known vocal teacher of that city. From childhood Miss Hall has been as fortunate in her education and environment as in the gifts with which nature, in one of her prodigal moods, so richly endowed her. When only seven years of age she was taken abroad to be educated, and placed in a school at Florence, where, with the exception of her vacations, passed in Germany and elsewhere on the continent, she remained for nine years. She returned to America while still in her teens, with a critical knowledge of four languages, a broad and cultivated taste for their literatures, and a feeling for and comprehension of art altogether rare in one so young. A strong friendship exists between Miss Hall and Mrs. Burnett, to whom the "Foam of the Sea" is dedicated. In Mrs. Burnett's home in Portland Place, London, is a beautiful portrait of Miss Hall, painted at Mrs. Burnett's order by Miss Grace Hall, a younger sister, and a rising portrait painter.

A CHAPTER ABOUT CHILDREN.

O F "dress parade" you all have heard,
And, doubtless, you have seen
The tramping lines of solid blue
Wheel grandly on the green.
But I've an army which, I'm sure,
Tho' you look far and near,
Tho' you hunt north, south, east and west,
Has not to-day a peer.
And every night, at eight o'clock,
Its line of march is made,
And the noise of drums tells me it comes
To give "Undress Parade."

A prouder general than I
Ne'er issued a command;
A prouder army than my own
Exists not in the land.
Two drummers always lead the way,
Then come the "rank and file,"
With heads erect, and faces front,
They march, then halt, the while
I make inspection of them all,
Of uniforms and guns;
And then I call, "Attention all!"
"Now, march! By twos! By ones!"

At last, when I am satisfied
That everything is right;
That curls are brushed and faces clean,
And uniforms are white,
I cry out, "Company, break ranks!"
The sound each one alarms;
For straightway, on the "double quick,"
They run into my arms.
The drums are dropped, and muskets, too;
Each hides his curly head,
And hugs me tight, and says, "Good night!"
Then scampers off to bed.

—Francis Churchill Adams.

**

The shoes of a small child must be very carefully chosen. An ill-fitting boot upon a tender foot is the most frequent source of corns, bunions and enlarged joints. A child's shoes should have broad soles of the extension pattern and no heels at all. They should be made of soft but not thin leather, and they should be laced rather than buttoned, as lace boots afford more support to the ankle.

**

Mr. James Payn, the novelist, tells of an amusing question put to him very seriously by a little boy of his own. The family were being driven out of their London house to make way for the painters, cleaners and whitewashers.

"Papa," said the child, who had evidently been turning the matter over in his own little head, "where do the people in heaven go when the spring cleaning begins there?"

This problem was too perplexing, even for Mr. Payn.

Perhaps the nearest approach to a pure aesthetic enjoyment in a child's first experience is the love of flowers. The wee, round wonders, with their mystery of velvety color, are well fitted to take captive the young eye. Mr. Sully believes most children who live among flowers and have access to them acquire something of this sentiment, a sentiment of admiration for beautiful things with which a sort of dumb childlike sympathy commonly blends. No doubt there are marked differences among children here. There are some who care only, or mainly, for their scent, and the strong sensibilities of the olfactory organ appear to have a good deal to do with early preferences and prejudices in the matter of flowers. Others, again, care for them mainly as a means of personal adornment, though this partially interested fondness is less common with children than with many adults. It is sometimes said that the love of flowers is, in the main, a characteristic of girls. Mr. Sully thinks, however, that if one takes children early enough, before a consciousness of sex and its properties have been allowed to develop under education, the difference will be but slight. Little boys of four, or thereabouts, very often show a very lively sentiment of admiration for these gems of the plant world.

A WORD WITH THE DOCTOR.

THE peanut is a fat producer, having none of the disagreeable taste of cod liver oil, and is said to have given excellent results in cases of consumption. One physician declares that it is the most satisfactory treatment he has tried.

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Here's a sure preventive of cold feet: Before going out plunge the feet into cold water; then rub them well with alcohol and dry thoroughly, rubbing them hard.

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Oil stoves and gas stoves should never be kept burning in a sleeping-room, for they are burned in the open air of the room, and, having no connection with a chimney-flue, throw the poisonous carbonic oxide of combustion into the air of the apartment and make it unfit for respiration.

**

A bilious attack may soon be overcome by taking the juice of one or two lemons in a goblet of water before retiring and in the morning before rising. Where taken on an empty stomach, the lemon has an opportunity to work on the system. Continue the use of them for several weeks. Lemons are an excellent remedy in pulmonary diseases. When used for lung trouble, from six to nine a day should be used. More juice is obtained from lemons by boiling them. Put the lemons into cold water and bring slowly to a boil. Boil slowly until they begin to soften; remove from the water and when cold enough to handle squeeze until all the juice is extracted, strain and add enough loaf or crushed sugar to make it palatable, being careful not to make it too sweet. Add about twice as much water as there is juice. This preparation may be made every morning, or enough may be prepared one day to last three or four days, but it must be kept in a cool place.

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Myopia being essentially a condition due to abuse of the eye, one is constantly obliged to say "don't" to patients. It occurs to me that it might be useful to put these prohibitory rules in aphoristic form:

- (1) Don't read in railway trains or in vehicles in motion.
- (2) Don't read lying down or in a constrained position
- (3) Don't read by firelight, moonlight, or twilight.
- (4) Don't read by a flickering gaslight or candlelight.
- (5) Don't read books printed on thin paper.
- (6) Don't read books which have no space between the lines.
- (7) Don't read for more than fifty minutes without stopping, whether the eyes are tired or not.
- (8) Don't hold the reading close to the eyes.
- (9) Don't study at night, but in the morning when you are fresh.
- (10) Don't select your own glasses at the outset.

It would almost seem as though some of these rules were too obvious to require mention, but practical experience shows that myopes abuse their eyes just in the ways stated. Reading by firelight or by moonlight are favorite sins. Reading lying down tends to increase the strain on the accommodation, and reading while travelling tires the ciliary muscle because of the too frequent adjustment of focus. In short, anything which tends to increase the quantity of blood in the organ favors the increase of the defect, leading in extreme cases to detachment of the retina and blindness.

LITERARY NOTES.

AMONG THE NEWSPAPER MEN AND MAGAZINE WRITERS, AUTHORS AND ARTISTS.

The New York Sunday World offers a prize of \$50 for the best list of the best one hundred English and American books for a girl of fifteen or sixteen years.

It is reported on good authority that the *Home Magazine*, Washington, D. C., which died over a year ago, is to be revived, with several wealthy men as its backers.

Ladies' Every Saturday, Philadelphia, is, as usual, full of an interesting variety of short stories, sketches, poems and fashion articles—all of them well illustrated.

Harper's Bazar for the 29th inst. contains several beautiful designs for elaborate tea gowns, from Paris, and a wedding toilette, the first of the season.

Harper's Weekly for the 29th inst., has a capitally-written and well illustrated article on "How Long and Lofty Bridges are Built." It has also a portrait of Cardinal Satolli.

Harper's Magazine for March opens with a new instalment of Caspar W. Whitney's "On Snow-Shoes to the Barren Grounds," profusely illustrated. Among other equally strong features are Owen Wister's Western yarn, "Where Fancy was Bred," Ninetta Eames's "Arcadian Bee Ranching," Helen Huntington's "Jane Hubbs's Salvation," Poultny Bigelow's "German Struggle for Liberty," and a remarkably able article by Park Benjamin on "The Nerves of a War Ship."

Harper's Round Table opens this week with one of Kirk Munroe's tales of Western adventure for boys. It is entitled "Rick Dale," is to run through the spring and is said to be one of the best that Mr. Munroe has yet written.

The Montana Methodist, Cowallis, Montana, has joined the list of "has beens."

Editor Bair, of *The Daily Journal*, Philipsburg, Pa., announces that, owing to the fact that he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and President of the Altoona District Epworth League, he will not hereafter publish advertisements of theatrical or operatic performances, balls or similar amusements. Let him continue that policy for a few months and the *Journal* may have a Bare exchequer as well as a Bair editor.

The Daily News, London, England, in connection with its jubilee celebration, stated that its articles in defence of the North during the civil war were written by Harriet Martineau.

The Citizen, weekly, of Camden, N. J., has been transformed into a daily, and under the title of *The Camden Independent* will hereafter pour hot shot and shell into the ranks of the corruptionists and others who have mismanaged that city's affairs. Good citizenship and better municipal government will find an earnest and untiring champion in the *Independent*.

The polite stranger who called to see the city editor rose to his feet in alarm as he heard some man who was just leaving the room complaining at a terrible rate. He was roasting the paper, says *The Houston (Texas) Post*, from editor to devil, and calling down all sorts of maledictions upon the heads of everybody connected with the office.

"Don't be alarmed," said the city editor, as he drew a match

from his pocket and asked the stranger for a cigar. "That's one of the most prominent and well-known citizens of Houston. You see we had a man try to interview him yesterday and get his views on a certain subject, and he made the reporter solemnly promise he would not print what he said in the paper."

"I see," said the polite stranger, "and it got in owing to some mistake and was published and made him mad."

"No," said the city editor, "it was accidentally left out."

McClure's Magazine for March continues its interesting biography of Abraham Lincoln, really a most valuable addition to the history of our country.

The Butte Miner (Montana), is beyond all question, one of the best and most reliable newspapers in the Great Northwest. Its news service has been increased, and no expense has been spared to bring it up to the standard which, to the delight of its thousands of friends, it has already attained.

The Daily Republican (Emporia, Kansas) published a special edition of its daily and weekly issues last week for the purpose of booming Emporia and inducing immigration to that hustling and thriving section. It tells in a plain business-like style the story of Emporia, and gives pictures and brief sketches of its leading citizens, and its varied industries, and assures its readers that Kansas offers many inducements to persons desiring good lands at an unusually low price. It adds that the booms of the past have entirely disappeared, and real property has reached bed rock. *The Republican* makes out a good case for its State, and will, undoubtedly, be a material help in the way of inducing farmers, stock-raisers, professional and business men from other States to "come to Emporia for health, wealth and prosperity." *The Republican* is a live newspaper and a credit alike to Lyon county, and to the entire State of Kansas.

One of the most ludicrous announcements that ever appeared perhaps was made by a London newspaper in the earlier half of the present century to the effect that Sir Robert Peel "and a party of fiends were shooting peasants in Ireland." The words misprinted, of course, were "friends" and "peasants."

E. H. McBride, editor of the *Mitchell Mail*, South Dakota, so incensed the citizens of that town by his attacks on some public institutions and prominent people there that the entire outfit of the *Mail*—paper, presses, type and other paraphernalia—was taken into the street a few days ago and publicly burned "by an orderly and well-behaved body of business men." Last Saturday night McBride accepted the citizens offer to buy out his plant provided that he'd go elsewhere. He refused, subsequently, to carry out the bargain. The citizens therefore selected an agent to act for McBride, paid him the money agreed upon, and then took the property and destroyed it. A committee is now looking for McBride.

The Athol Transcript, Mass., which recently celebrated its twenty fifth anniversary by publishing a double sheet, filled with artistic illustrations and capitally written sketches about Athol, its material interests, and an interesting history of the *Transcript* itself, is one of the best and most progressive weeklies in the Bay State.

Publisher Oatman of the *Sunday Call*, Pittsfield, Mass., is about to issue a daily edition of that Journal. It is to be styled the *Morning Call* and will doubtless be as welcome a daily visitor as it has been a weekly one to the homes of its patrons in Pittsfield and vicinity. Energy, ability and reliability have been Mr. Oatman's characteristics as publisher of the Sunday newspaper, and they will surely tell in the prosperity and success of his new venture.

OUR PARIS LETTER.

The European "Continental" Situation.—The French Cabinet and the Troubles of its Members.—No Prospect of an Immediate Anglo-German War.—Kaiser Disavows the Bismarckian Policy.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

PARIS, February 14, 1896.

INTERNATIONALLY, the European situation is pretty much that which an ancient ditty qualified as "lubly," and connected the same with the elevated position of a goose. Not so unruffled are the home situations of some—at least two—of the great Continental Powers. The French and German Governments have their hands full of thorns; they are plunged in solicitude and anxiety, concerning the success and the results of their respective policies.

M. Bourgeois is in a hobble, his cabinet totters, yet he struggles manfully to hold on to his office, spite of the many and unmistakable symptoms that the public does not believe that he has realized great expectations or fulfilled promised engagements. Twice has the Senate defeated bills, which, defeated by the deputies, instead of by the Conscript Fathers, would have entailed an immediate ministerial crisis; twice have "regrets"—a mitigated form of "blame"—been expressed by this august assembly, which judges the interests of property owners to be equally entitled to protection with those of the proletarians, the great impecunious "unwashed" element of which Messrs. Bourgeois & Co. are the champions. Never mind those old fogies, counsel the friends of the Administration; we will support your demand for a revision of the constitution and a suppression of the anti-leveillers. But according to that constitution, no revision can be made without the consent and co-operation of the President of the Republic and of the Senate, and it is doubtful that M. Faure, already a prisoner in the hands of the Radicals, and much distressed thereat, will agree to his own execution, or that the legislators at the Luxembourg will commit suicide to please their enemies. In addition to these more or less platonic marks of disapproval, a Radical dyed-in-the-wool, proposes to ask: how, why and wherefore our *Judge d' Instruction*—examining magistrate, filling nearly the attributes of our grand jury—has been suddenly appointed *vice*, the former incumbent, *after* the latter had drawn up his report on one of the many corruption and bribery scandals which have been brought to light, since the "dawn of the Reign of Liberty." Here, the Keeper of the Seals, alias the Minister of Justice, M. Ricard, is directly aimed at. M. Ricard has been too zealous; he wanted more truth about the peculators, and so eliminated the judge, who was disposed to agree with Messrs. Bourgeois and Cavaignac, for whom the shelter of some of the guilty parties seemed a political necessity. M. Ricard will, probably, be thrown overboard, and the question is, will his colleagues go with him? Betting is at even money on this point. Apropos of M. Ricard, the veracious correspondent of a West of the Alleghany *Tribune*, already noticed by me for his remarkable imagination, has explained that "being a remarkably handsome man, M. Ricard is popularly known by the soubriquet of *La Belle Fatima*." Now, in point of fact, the Keeper of the Seals is so qualified in consequence of his compromising admiration of and attention to a Tunisian Jewess—born in one of the "excentric" quarters of Paris—who exhibited as a professional beauty at fairs, and notably at Amiens, when M. Ricard occupied there an official position of mark.

Sops to Electors.

This, parenthetically, and to destroy an illusion. To return to the Cabinet's status: it will die hard, and to gain time for a change in public, if not in political opinion it is trying to divert attention from its shortcomings by sops to Cerberus. Where shall the Exposition of 1900 A. D. be located? Ought there to be any

such world's fair, profitable only to a certain category of Parisian trades people, but just the contrary to Provincial? There will be an Exposition in 1900, without doubt, but if not a failure as a show, it will be extensively so for all who take stock in the enterprise. Then, the government has another string to its bow; mindful of the saying in J. Caesar's time about *panem et circenseos*, the Parisian Municipal Council has resuscitated the legendary *Promenade du Boeuf Gras*, suppressed after the Empire's fall, where, on Shrove Tuesday, an ultra fat ox is carted through the streets with an attendant cavalcade, mostly mythological, to be slaughtered and sold piecemeal by about two hundred different butchers of the Capital, each of whom professes to be the sole and unique purchaser of the original animal. The City Fathers lose no opportunity to display their solicitude for their electors; whatever they can do to amuse them they do, and if you want evidence of this I need only cite one example: For the last ball at the Hotel de Ville, many ca'lled for invitations, but not enough could be chosen, and so one Patriarch proposed to sell the same at public auction and give their proceeds to the poor. The idea was luminous, likewise of charitable import; its realization fell short of all calculations; twenty-six tickets produced exactly 45 francs, 50 centimes. The poor of Paris have not benefited to any great extent by the innovation. I refrain from any criticism of the curious assemblage at that City Hall, and will only state that "invited guests" paid 50 or 75 centimes each for "free" tickets to the supper table! Poor Felix Faure and his daughter were forced to go there *ex-officio*, but looked, and certainly were unhappy in the midst of the rabble. Felix has had nearly enough of his situation, and is said to hesitate about which door to take to escape from it—the Big Door, i. e., the dissolution of the Chambers, or the Little Door, which means his resignation. And, here again, the betting is even. At all events, something seems to be changed, if the rumor be true that the President of the French Republic will *not* go, as had been announced with trumpet flourish, to the Coronation of the Tsar.

So much for the French home situation, where some sort of a crash, Ministerial or Presidential, or perhaps both, looks to be imminent.

Condition of Affairs in Germany.

And in Germany? There also the sky is not altogether clear. The violent excitement caused by the Kaiser's sensational telegram to President Krüger has calmed down, but it has left indelible traces behind it. Diplomacy can appease international incidents, but those incidents, nevertheless, not only constitute grave symptoms of an abnormal situation, but contribute to the aggravation of that situation and to the facilitation of an eventual rupture. Spite of the optimists, the relations of England with Germany are not, at present, what they were before the Transvaal crisis of January, 1896. There can be no immediate Anglo-German war, but when Lord Salisbury asks for an appropriation to cover certain extraordinary expenditure, he must, necessarily, give the motives of his demand, indicate the new dangers by which it is justified. This, fatally, will provoke a counter manifestation at Berlin, where a party, if not numerous, strongly supported from high places, will exploit the situation, and—by its appeal to the patriotism of Fatherland, obtain immense appropriations for an increase of the German navy. This undertaking may be arduous, but precisely because it is so, its promoters will be tempted to exaggerate, and thus doing, will increase the existing tension. The debates, however, will serve to distract public attention from the prosecution of Baron von Hammerstein, who, if alone on the criminal bench, may produce certain notes concerning many influential members of the Landtag, who, like the defendant, are shining lights of the Conservative party. They may help, also, in the adoption of the proposed *Civil Code*, by which German unity is consolidated by the unification of civil jurisprudence throughout the German Empire. Yet, undeniable though this reform be, it encounters opposition. It would be rash to predict its defeat; but it will not

pass like a letter through the post-office. The German population, for whom the principle of federation constitutes the very essence of their historical traditions, quite understand that this project is the last link of a chain of dependence which is presented under the form of a simplification of existing procedure. Hanoverians, Poles, Wurtemburgers, got along very comfortably with their old codes. Why, they ask, should there be this new-fangled unification, which will not diminish the number of law suits, nor result in a single *pfennig* of economy in judicial expenses?

The Catholic Centre is hostile to it, on principle; the Guelphs, the Alsace-Lorrain deputies, the representatives of what was once Poland, have resolved to oppose it, and so are the Socialists, who always vote against every measure of the government, which works diligently in the manufacture of some combination that may save it from defeat—all of which goes to prove how precarious and unsymmetric is the system of ultra centralization conceived by Prince von Bismarck, that too servile imitator of Napoleon and of Cavour, who never used aught save the conceptions of other statesmen and seems never to have had an exact appreciation of the genuine value of the doctrines of which he constituted himself the champion.

The unity of Germany is not definitely completed, any more than is that of Italy, and the diplomatic and military work accomplished between 1859 and the close of the nineteenth century may be revised at the beginning of the twentieth century, if not sooner. Still, the German government will not allow itself to be defeated officially, and if the opposition be too formidable, it will adjourn the conflict for another year, and in the course of a twelvemonth the opinions of deputies, on the conditions of the empire, may be vastly modified.

The Triple Alliance Losing Ground.

Meanwhile, the ex-Chancellor airs his ill-humor in his organ, *The Hamburg News*, in re the recent events at Sofia, which do not please the partisans of the *Triplice*. According to the Prince, who is mildly ironical, the moral sacrifice consented to by Ferdinand of Coburg, is quite useless, a sort of flash in the pan, unless he also becomes a convert to Russian orthodoxy; without that he will not implant his dynasty on Bulgarian soil, etc., etc., all of which ill conceals the disappointment felt that a sovereign invented to be an Austrian outpost in the Balkans, has only been able to remain where he was put, by making to Russia a grave concession. It is additional evidence that the influence of the Triple Alliance has lost ground; that nothing remains of the Bismarckian policy. His pupil, the Kaiser, disavows the old man by his strenuous efforts to renew cordial relations with the French; Austria has practically thrown up the sponge, by the admission of her inability to support her chosen vessel, the cousin of her Emperor, by whom Prince Ferdinand was engaged in a most hazardous enterprise. Italy, abandoned even by England, wallows in a slough of despond and helplessness. Nothing, then, can warrant apprehension of any approaching international perturbation, although pessimists do pretend that in the Abyssinian conflict are elements of peril. Not that the victories or defeats of the self-styled "Sons of the She Wolf" affect in any way European relations, but a gallophobic campaign has been opened in the peninsula, and who can tell what might be its results? The Italians, excitable, ignorant and, above all, vain, seek an excuse for the failure of their arms, and are taught to find it in the collaboration of the French government with the Choans. M. Crispi's official organs deny, his "*officiorum*" organs assert that arms, ammunition and military instructors have been liberally furnished from Paris to the "descendent of the Queen of Sheba," Menelik. Nothing warrants this accusation; the guns and rifles were provided by a Belgian syndicate, the money for their purchase by the Russian orthodox fanatics, fervent supporters of their African coreligionaires, to whom they promised aid and comfort when the delegates of the Negus visited St. Petersburg last year, and it requires other evidence than the assertions of an Italian officer—an inter-

ested party—to establish the charge that France has given Lebel rifles to the Abyssinian troops. Until that evidence be forthcoming we must believe that the Italians are being beaten on their own merits.

M. Crispi's policy is dishonest, but its aim is apparent: the *Triplice* allies are not bound to act in the present conflict, yet are so bound if any one of them be the victim of foreign aggression, by exciting the rabble, he hopes the creation of some incident which might necessitate retaliation by the French, and then, in his opinion, it will be a case of *Finis Gallici!*

Z.

TRAVELERS' TALES BRIEFLY TOLD.

THE chief exponents of music in Japan are women. Most men would consider that they were making themselves ridiculous by singing or playing in society.

**

The Indian monks, called Phoongees, do not shave much, but amuse themselves between prayers by pulling out their superfluous hair with tweezers. They promenade the streets in long yellow robes early every morning with a wooden bowl to receive the alms and victuals of the faithful and carry a triangular gong, with which attention is called to the fact that the cupboard of the monks is bare.

**

Among the ragpickers of Paris, who still may be seen, with their hooked sticks and baskets, turning over the sweepings of the city in the early morning, may sometimes be discovered gentlemen of position, who, from some cause, have sunk from riches to rags. The inventor of a telephonic cable may be reckoned in this category. Upon this invention he had wasted his entire resources, and finally his reason gave way.

**

The fire opal is found in its greatest perfection in the porphyritic rocks at Zimapán, Mexico. It is generally of a hyacinth red color, and gleams forth with flashes of brilliant carmine, with yellow and green scintillations. The Mexican production surpasses all other varieties in the intensity and the gorgeousness of its hues, but it will not bear exposure, and the sensitive surface soon loses its flashing beauties. They bring exorbitant prices in Mexico, when sold to the unwary, who learn all too soon, upon returning to the haunts of civilization, that they had paid nearly 50 per cent. too much for the gems. The Spanish historians in their marvelous stories of the wonders seen in Mexico at the time of the conquest, describe the image of the mystic idol Quetzalcoatl (god of the air) on the great pyramid of Cholula as wearing a mitre waving with plumes of fire, and which was supposed to have been produced by masses of the fire opal.

**

For ages before its occupation by man, New Zealand swarmed with great wingless birds, which found here no carnivorous enemies, but an abundance of vegetable food. The moas not only existed in vast numbers and for thousands of years, but had such diversity of form as to embrace no less than seven genera, containing twenty-five species—a remarkable fact which is unparalleled in any other part of the world. The commonest kinds in the North Island were only from two and a half to four feet high. Those of the South Island were mostly from four to six feet tall, while the giant forms, reaching twelve and thirteen feet, were always rare.

Immense deposits of moa bones have been found in localities to which they appeared to have been washed from the hills in tertiary times. Skeletons on the surface of the ground, with skin and ligaments still attached, have given the impression that these birds have been exterminated in very recent years, but other facts point to a different conclusion. Tradition seems to show, according to F. M. Hutton, that the moa became extinct in the North Island soon after the arrival of the Maoris in New Zealand—that is, not less than four hundred to five hundred years ago—and in the South Island about one hundred years later.

The fresh-appearing skin and ligaments are supposed to have been preserved by unusually favorable conditions.

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

That Proposed International Monetary Conference.—Attitude of the German and English Governments.—Bimetallism Sure to Come.—Agricultural Distress in England.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

LONDON, February 15, 1896.

THE report that Prince Hohenlohe, the German Imperial Chancellor, had declared in the Reichstag that Germany would refrain from any attempt to call together an international Monetary Conference was the occasion of some surprise here. It will be remembered that early last year a resolution was carried in the German Parliament, authorizing the government to send out invitations for an international conference, for the purpose of checking the divergence in the value of gold and silver. This resolution was never put into effect, as obstacles stood in the way, the greatest of which was that England was at that time not prepared to send delegates to such a conference. The resolution was, therefore, held in abeyance. It was, however, to Germany that all bimetallicists looked for the initiation of the conference, and they were confirmed in this view by the action of the responsible leaders of the bimetallic party at Berlin, and by the presence of prominent German politicians at the Bimetallic Conference recently held at Paris. Consequently, the sudden news that Germany had abandoned the conference gave all bimetallicists here the impression that some extensive change of German imperial policy had taken place.

I am able, however, to give the correct version of what actually transpired and how little Germany's policy towards a conference has really changed. The German Imperial Government put to the English government, through Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London, the question, "Are you going to open the Indian mints?" The answer was: "We have no present intention of doing so." The question was most direct and unqualified, and, under the circumstances, everyone must agree that no other answer could have been expected. It was not asked in connection with any proposed conference, and as it was unaccompanied by any explanatory statement it was answered simply on its merits. It was on the strength of this that Prince Hohenlohe made the declaration in the Reichstag I referred to above. From what I have heard I gather that Germany meant to convey some far different sense in the question. She wished to know whether England, in the event of a conference becoming an established fact, would consent to reopen the Indian mints, as her quota towards an international monetary agreement. It has never been understood by bimetallicists here or elsewhere, that the reopening of the Indian mints is a necessary preliminary to, or is in any way connected with the assembling of a conference.

Attitude of England and Germany.

It might follow, and indeed would follow, any conference that might be called and to which plenipotentiary delegates might be sent. It would be essential to and a necessary part of any international monetary agreement. Germany was desirous of knowing England's attitude on that point and caused the above inadequate and most inappropriate question to be put to the Marquis of Salisbury. From these facts which I have from a most authoritative source, it will be at once seen that as the question did not accurately represent what Germany wished to say the answer should not affect her attitude towards the conference.

It will be found that the British government had no intention, in giving a plain answer to a question of fact, of expressing any views of their own. Nor did they wish to influence the views of the German government in regard to the general silver question or the advisability of a conference. Bimetallicists in the House of Commons do not intend to let the matter rest here. They are resolved to obtain a plain statement of the facts of the case from

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the government. Sir William Houldsworth, the Chairman of the Bimetallic Parliamentary Committee (which now numbers one hundred and thirty-four members), has put down on the notice paper of the House the following question for Thursday next, the 20th inst.: "To ask the first Lord of the Treasury (Mr. Balfour) whether Her Majesty's government has refused to co-operate with Germany in furthering an international agreement, by reopening the Indian mints." In view of what immediately precedes it will be seen that this question affords an excellent opportunity to a friendly minister, as Mr. Balfour undoubtedly is, to declare England's attitude to an international monetary conference. Mr. Balfour, speaking as a Minister, will carry with him the weight and authority of government. If his words should be at all favorable, as I have every reason to believe they will be, they will face the whole question on a basis, whereon the subject can be treated with greater facility, and with less loss of time.

Bimetallists have lost no time in forming an active committee in the present Parliament. This committee is composed of members of every shade of political opinion. Evidence of this can be found in the fact that out of the seven Whips two are Conservatives, two are Unionists, two are Liberals and one is an Irish Nationalist. As I have mentioned above, one hundred and thirty-four M. P.'s have joined this committee. These include many new adherents. The excellent work by the Bimetallic League during the last General Election is just beginning to bear fruit. A meeting of the committee is to be held next Wednesday at the House of Commons to consider what steps should be taken this session. Already a notice has been given for an early day in the session "to call attention to the evils arising from the want of an international monetary standard of value, and to move a resolution." Owing to the hard fortune experienced in the ballot no exact date was obtained for this motion. But I do not anticipate that it will be delayed long.

A Report on Agricultural Distress.

The issue of the interim report of the Royal Committee on Agriculture, which is promised shortly, is awaited here with keen interest. More than ordinary importance is attached to it by the fact that agricultural distress is receiving by far the lion's share of the domestic policy of the government. And bimetallists have every reason to be interested, as it will be accompanied by a minority report, the existence of which is said to be due to the differences of opinion that exist between Mr. Shaw-Lefevre and Mr. Chaplin on the currency question. If this is so, currency reformers must congratulate themselves. The minority report will be signed by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, and it may be presumed from this that, if the minority are gold-monometallists in conjunction with their worthy chairman, the main report contains a recommendation of bimetallism. It is to be hoped that this will be found to be a fact, because nothing could happen in this country which could have greater influence upon the government in the direction of currency reform. The large agricultural party in the House of Commons would identify themselves with the bimetallic party and would form a combination in the face of which the government would have to grant the necessary reforms. G. W.

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.

"If your wife is dearer to you than life,
Kiss her and tell her so."

**

A man never realizes how human he is until he has made a big fool of himself.

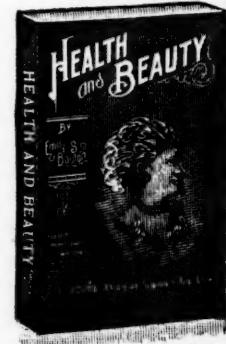
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A tablespoonful of powdered alum sprinkled in a barrel of water will precipitate all impurities to the bottom.

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One often needs the contents of several small bottles on a journey, but the packing them, so that they will not break, nor leak, is a nuisance. An old glove with a finger tightly stretched over the cork will help one out.

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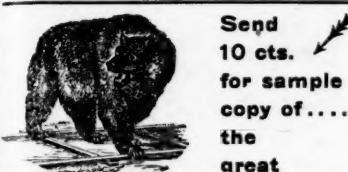
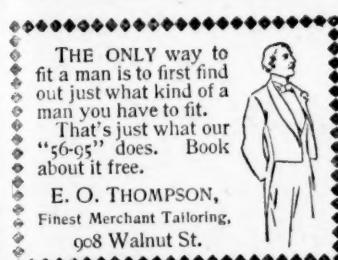
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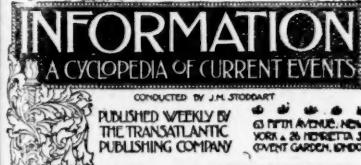
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To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

Dear Sir—The fact of increased and increasing production of gold is used by the gold monometallist as a convincing—nay irrefutable—argument that gold exists in sufficient quantities to serve alone as the money metal of the world. He points out that during the greatest previous production between 1856 and 1860, the annual average was under six and a half million ounces, as against ten million ounces in 1895, and that the accumulations in European banks have since January 1, 1891, increased by the enormous sum of \$600,000,000 (not counting the \$500,000,000 in the Russian Treasury.)

Suppose, for argument's sake, that enough gold exists to serve as a basis for the world's money. To make this supposition of uniform value and benefit, it is necessary that all nations adopt it and regulate their currencies and exchanges in accordance. If only some nations adopt the gold and throw out silver, the discarded metal will naturally fall in value as against the only one adopted. Those nations that are satisfied with the metal discarded by others, will naturally reap the benefit of such a fall in value as against gold, and they are doing so now. The material rapid progress of Japan is attracting the attention of the world. Mexico is progressing, and so are all the Central and South American States.

Per contra the agricultural and industrial interests of the United States are suffering, and are likely to suffer more. The demonetization of silver has alone, disorganized the relative values between gold and silver, irrespective of the ratio of production.

The relative production of gold and silver during the present century has varied greatly. During the decade 1801-1810 fifty ounces of silver were produced to one of gold, while for the years 1856-1860 the ratio of the world's production of gold and silver was one ounce of gold to $4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of silver, but in spite of these wide fluctuations in the relative production of gold and silver the commercial or market ratio fluctuated in very narrow limits. The market ratio during the first period referred to, when more than \$3 of silver were produced to \$1 of gold, averaged 1 to 15.75, and during the second period, when more than \$3 of gold were produced to one of silver, the market ratio averaged 1 to 15.30, or close to the French mint ratio of 1 to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$. While the French mints were open to silver these great fluctuations in production did not cause material fluctuations in the London market ratio. In 1895 the ratio of production was one of gold to 15 of silver, or nearly equal dollar-for-dollar at the old ratio, but the market ratio was as 1 to 33. This shows conclusively that the divergence in the value of gold and silver is due solely to the demonetization of silver, not to changes in the relative production of gold or silver.

Thus, by legislative enactments of Germany and the United States, the labor and products of silver-using countries were given a premium of 100 per cent. to the detriment of the labor and products of gold-using countries. The prosperity of the United States rests on the prosperity of agriculture. Give it the same treatment as is given to the agriculture of silver-using countries, and protect our industries by duties sufficiently against the pauper labor of Europe and Asia. The law of the survival of the fittest will then come into play, when Americans will not take a back seat.

It goes without saying that bimetallism will not regulate prices of produce irrespective of supply and demand. If excessive cotton crops should put prices down to five cents a pound, or excessive wheat crops put wheat down to fifty cents a bushel, silver will not put up the prices. But why should our farmers receive only five cents and fifty cents, when the Indian farmer receives ten cents and one hundred cents? D'ARGENT.

Livingston, New York, Feb. 25th, 1896.

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Mon., 4:00 P. M. Daily (Sleepers)	11:30 P. M.
Loch Haven, Clearfield and Du Bois Express	(Sleepers) daily, except Saturday, 11:30 P. M.

For New York

Leave Reading Terminal, 4:10, 7:30, (two-hour train) 8:30, 9:30, 11:30 A. M., 12:30, 1:30, 2:35, 5:00, 6:10, 8:25, (dining car) P. M., 12:10 night. Sundays, 4:10, 8:30, 9:30 A. M., 12:30, 6:10, 8:25 (dining car) P. M., 12:10 night.

Leave Twenty-fourth and Chestnut Streets, 3:55, 8:08, 9:10, 10:18, 11:14 A. M., 12:57 (dining car) 2:38, 3:45, 6:12, 8:10 (dining car) 11:45 P. M. Sundays, 3:55, 8:08, 10:18 A. M., 12:14, 3:45, 6:12, 8:10 (dining car) 1:45 P. M.

Leave New York, foot of Liberty street, 4:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:30 A. M., 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:00 (two-hour train) 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:45 P. M., 12:15 night. Sundays, 4:30, 9:00, 10:00, 11:30 A. M., 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 P. M., 12:15 night.

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For Schuylkill Valley Points

For Phoenixville and Pottstown—Express, 8:35, 10:00 A. M., 12:45, 4:00, 6:00, 11:30 P. M. Accom., 4:20, 7:42, 11:05 A. M., 1:42, 4:35, 5:22, 7:20 P. M. Sunday—Express, 4:00, 9:05 A. M., 11:30 P. M. Accom., 7:30, 11:35 A. M., 6:00 P. M.

For Reading—Express, 8:35, 10:00 A. M., 12:45, 4:00, 6:00, 11:30 P. M. Accom., 4:20, 7:42 A. M., 1:42, 4:35, 5:22, 7:20 P. M. Sunday—Express, 4:00, 9:05 A. M., 11:30 P. M. Accom., 7:30 A. M., 6:00 P. M.

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32 Wearing of the green	506 Mother says I mustn't	863 Little red riding hood
45 Poor old slave	509 Fellow that looks like me	889 When Johnny comes marching
51 How to kiss a lady	510 Watch on the Rhine	896 Windy man from Brooklyn home
53 Marching through Georgia	511 A lock of mother's hair	910 Little old red shaw! my mother
54 Little old candle	512 Shop did you see the door	920 Letter that never came (wore
75 Slavery days	516 We won't go home till morning	921 Little old men around me, boys
75 Little barefoot	523 It's nice to be a father	956 Bold M'Intires
88 Listen to the mocking-bird	526 Man with the sealskin pants	1003 I'm the father of a little black
88 She never blamed him, never	529 Keep in the middle of the road	1038 Baby that never came (coo)
98 Swinging in the lane	532 Let me in my dream	1944 Jessie James
109 Kitty Wells	546 Wait for the wagon	1050 I could tell it if I felt it in the dark
113 Two Orphans (Brooklyn theatre)	552 Peck-a-boo	1101 Where did you get that hat?
128 Shabby genteel (fire	555 I'll wait till the clouds roll by	1133 Chump! I or, They did me up
145 Molie dancing	556 We never speak at the pass by	1157 Since Casey runs the fast
149 Thou hast learned to love another	559 Baby's in the rose flower	1158 Don't knock on chicken-coop door
219 God bless my boy at sea	579 It's a cold day when I get left	1213 Comrades
229 Dear Detacher gal	586 She's as good as cold	1220 Lovers' quarrel, or Mary and John
316 Turned down to the club	590 Shoo, don't bother me	1242 Oh, what a difference in the morn-
334 Then all do it	599 Ten thousand miles away	1250 McNamee (pig)
341 When McGuinness gets a job	604 Baby's in the big dig	1259 La-la-la-bum-dere
342 Riding on the elevated railroad	615 Funny old gal	1268 Rattle rattle a Waterbury watch
352 Stokes' verdict (Jim Fiske song)	624 Let me kiss him for his mother	1278 It takes a girl to do it every time
369 Baby's favorite song	629 Capt'n n with his whiskers	1290 Corbett and Sullivan fight
381 You'll leave me when I'm gone	639 A knot of blue and gray	1302 I'll put your hat to the ball
391 Son of a gambler	640 I'll tickle he under the chin	1309 I've the hots, wrote Ta-ra ra room
401 Moon is out to-night, love	644 Bring back my bonnie to me	1310 Man that broke the bank at Monte
406 Boys keep away from the girls	657 Hard times come again no more	1323 The th' chicken got (Carlo
418 Head from home is a banner	673 Boy's best friend is his mother	1334 After the ball (the xe
421 And fifty more	678 Hark! the daughter-mother and	1335 I loved you better than you knew
439 Ring my mother wore	701 Climbing up the golden stairs	1336 Kiss, kiss, let's make up
439 Oh, Fred I tell them to stop	705 I tickled he under the chin	1349 Two little girls in blue
440 Mary Ann, I'll tell your ma	724 Don't leave your mother, Tom	1351 Daisy Bell
447 Mary's gone with a coon	767 Mor issey and the Benicia boy	1353 I love you in spite of all
454 Drunkard's dream	770 Key hole in the door	1372 Mr. Martin
467 Little old log cabin by the stream	792 There's a light in the window	1401 Mrs. Martin and the daughter-mother and
467 Old leather breeches	793 I had 15 dollars my inside pocket	1403 Little branch of whiskers on tall

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With his marble block before him,
And his face lit up with a smile of joy
As an angel-dream passed o'er him.
He carved the dream on the shapeless stone
With many a sharp incision;
With heaven's own light the sculptor stood—
He had caught the "Angel Vision."

Sculptors of life are we, as we stand
With our souls uncarved before us,
Waiting the hour, when at God's command,
Our life dream passes o'er us;
If we carve it then on the yielding stone,
With many a sharp incision,
Its heavenly beauties shall be our own,
Our lives that "Angel Vision."

—Bishop Doane.

**

An orchestra has been installed in the Baptist church at Galesburg, Mich. The pastor of the church leads and plays the clarinet. The music is good, and the new feature of the services is attracting big crowds to the church.

**

First Vestryman—"It must make a clergyman feel very unhappy to discover that he has outlived his usefulness in a parish."

Second Vestryman—"Not so unhappy as it makes the people when he doesn't discover it."

**

The Rev. Dr. H. W. McKnight, President of Gettysburg College, has tendered his resignation, to take effect next June. He favored a liberal and progressive policy in the conduct of the college, which is a Lutheran institution, but his ideas have met with so much opposition that he deems it wise to resign.

**

The Presbyterians of the United States are divided into twelve branches, known as the Presbyterian in the United States of America, Presbyterian in the United States, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist, Cumberland (colored), Cumberland Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Associate Church of North America, Associate Reformed South, Reformed Presbyterian (synod), Reformed Presbyterian (general synod), Reformed Presbyterian (covenanted), Reformed in the United States and Canada.

**

A criminal suit against the lay rector for neglecting to repair the chancel of the parish church, probably the first suit of the kind brought in the present century, was instituted recently by the church wardens of St. Peter's Church, Derby, in the Consistory Court. The gentleman who draws the tithes and enjoys the revenues of the church, pleaded guilty and was condemned to make the repairs.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A HISTORY OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY LITERATURE (1780-1895). By George Saintsbury. New York : Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.

A critical review of any period of literature from the hand of Mr. Saintsbury is an addition to our history of the English world of letters which must be regarded as authoritative. And in no period is there more fervent interest than that which is included in the century closing. Yet in reviewing a period at such close range the critic who wants to be fair, inevitably encounters great difficulties by reason of his inability to regard the productions of that period in the same impartial spirit which, being removed from the immediate influences of the literature in question may direct him in his task. It is doubly to Mr. Saintsbury's credit then, that in making his review he has proceeded in a calm judicial mood, and has discriminated without bitterness among so many varying schools. His book is a temperate and considerate account, embodying a careful study and comparison of the foremost figures in literature in the past hundred years, and supplying in the general deductions made from this study and comparison, a fair judgment of the character and trend of prose and poetry of the time.

In explaining Mr. Saintsbury's opinion we can not do better than quote this passage, in which is given the substance of his judgment: "It is almost a century of origins as regards the most

important kinds; it is quite a century of capital and classical performance in them. In making—prose or verse—no time leaves record of performance more distinguished or more various. That in one great literary kind, drama, it exhibits lamentable deficiency, that, indeed, in that kind it hardly counts at all, has been admitted, and it is not probable that in any of the serious prose kinds, except history, it will ever rank very high when compared with others. Its theology has, so far as literature is concerned, been a little wanting in dignity, in finish, and even in fervor, its philosophy either commonplace or jargonish, its exercises in science and scholarship ever divorcing themselves further from literary ideals. But in the quality of its miscellaneous writing, as well as in the facilities given to such writing by its special growth—some would say its special fungus—of the periodical, it again rises to the first-class, hardly the period of Montague and Bacon, certainly not that of Dryden, Cowley and Temple, nor that of Addison and Steele, nor that of Johnson and Goldsmith, can vie with the century of Charles Lamb and William Hazlitt, of Leigh Hunt and Thomas de Quincey, of Macaulay and Thackeray and Carlyle, of Arnold and Mr. Ruskin." Mr. Saintsbury regards the change in style which marks the literature of the period as one both beneficial and dangerous to the world of English letters of the future. It has added a gorgeousness to it, and given it new variety, but, on the other hand, it seems to him, possibly to threaten the purity and strength of the language in written form.

THE UNIVERSITIES OF EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES. By Hastings Rashdall, M. A. New York: Macmillan & Co.

The history of the great European and English universities is the history of intellectual development. The universities were the natural certain outgrowth of the advance of learning and the ambitions of those who were inspired with an appetite which existing conditions could not satisfy. It is some account of the birth, development and scope of the greatest of the universities—Oxford, Paris and Bologna that Mr. Rashdall has undertaken. He has invested his work with much interest by reason of the evident care with which it has been written, and his research and study, preparatory to writing must have been exhaustive. To follow him in his task of tracing the causes to which led to the then foundations, and the plan and leaders of the institutions, is out of the question here. Intricate, because of the complicating influences often dominating their growth, the history of the universities, and more especially that of Paris and Bologna is not easy to recount briefly. Yet Mr. Rashdall, apparently, has been content with no surface investigation, and his work must be considered authoritative. A valuable addition to the volumes are the plentiful biographical notes, which are part of each of the chapters.

A LITTLE WIZARD. By Stanley T. Weyman. New York: R. F. Fenno & Co. 50c.

The flavor of hazardous adventure is strong in all of Mr. Weyman's books, and this little story does not lack for its share of exciting events. The story itself is simple. The hero is a child—a child whose love for his brother made him endure even threats of death with fortitude—a child whose example of courage and self-sacrifice was so impressive that the man for whom the sacrifice was made was compelled to confess his own identity, even though it was fatal to him, in order to save the lad. The story is capitally told, and in a few words Mr. Weyman sketches situations that many writers would have expended pages in describing.

The time of the tale is the year of the battle of Naseby; the central characters are a royalist boy and his brother, who is fighting in the royalist ranks. In contrast with these two are a group of the stern, zealous soldiers whom Cromwell grouped about him. In his delineation of character Mr. Weyman has a skill which may be compared to that of the clever worker in black and white. His men and women are drawings in outline most often, but they are bold and suggestive drawings, and the reader can scarcely go amiss in filling in the color which Mr. Weyman leaves it to his imagination to supply. Certainly in "The Little Wizard" no mistake of this kind can be made, and, condensed within the limits of 190 pages, is as vivid and pretty a romance as has been our good fortune to come across for some time.

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"No, sir," replied the child, "I pulled them this morning. But they was growin' all day yesterday."

**

James Payn relates a curious coincidence: "A young engineer was describing to the occupants of a railway carriage a late experience on an engine: 'We were making up time between two stations, and going at a great rate, when we suddenly sighted an old gentleman walking quietly in front of us along the line. We screeched and whistled, but he was very deaf, and we could not attract his attention.' An old lady, horrified by the situation, and hoping there was some way out of it, here exclaimed: 'But you didn't hurt him?' 'We were down upon him, ma'am, like 1 o'clock! Hurt him indeed! Did you ever hear such a question, sir?' addressing a young man in deep mourning, who had maintained a melancholy silence. 'I have heard the story before,' he replied in explanation of his want of interest. 'It was my father.'"

**

A famous French prima donna when acting, delights in a big basin of soup, smoking hot and well-flavored with grated cheese. On one occasion she was engaged for a few nights at Marseilles, and her first thought on arriving there was to inquire where she could order her favorite dish. She was recommended to patronize a humble restaurant just by the theatre, and going there gave her order in person.

At 9 o'clock, as arranged, mine host called his serving maid, and placing a gigantic tureen in her hands told her to take it to Mme. C— on the stage. He added that orders had been given to let her pass with her bowl, and on the girl's assurance that she would recognize the cantatrice sent her off with the soup. Everybody gave way before the servant carrying the sacred meal of the star, when suddenly between the wings she caught sight of the prima donna, who was singing the finale of the first act of "Lucia."

Ravenswood and his betrothed were just about to begin the passionate scene which brings down the curtain when the maid entered and placed the tureen on the mossy bank in front of the fountain. Then lifting up the cover and plunging in a spoon she exclaimed to the stupefaction of actors and audience alike:

"Begging your pardon for interrupting you, sir, and the lady, but here's the soup."

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